

Report on the 2001–2002 ringing year

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The period covered in this report is 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002. A total of 69 383 birds was ringed (Table 1) compared to 82 792 in the previous year (see Table 7). The total was made up of 64 689 free-flying birds and 4694 nestlings. There is a fair amount of fluctuation in ringing totals over the last 5 years (Table 7), probably mainly due to the number of penguins and quelea ringed, as mentioned in previous annual reports. The figures for this report were compiled in April instead of the usual December, meaning that the data is slightly more up to date than in previous years, although there are always a few ringers who submit data a few years late.

Most birds were ringed in Gauteng (Table 1). Ringing records were received from 3

countries not represented in the previous year: Zambia, Malawi and Mauritius. Top ringer is Tim Osborne (Table 2), who was in 5th position in the previous year. Top raptor ringers are Kevin Mitchell for nestlings and Francois Taljaard with balchatries (Table 3).

The number of species ringed was 569, slightly more than the previous year (Table 7). The top species are Red Bishop, Masked Weaver, Redbilled Quelea, European Swallow and Cape White-eye as in previous years, although the Red Bishop is on top for the first time in the last few years.

Common Terns lead the Seabirds list (Table 5). Barn Owl is the most ringed nestling raptor and Pale Chanting Goshawk is the most trapped raptor (Table 6).

Table 1. Geographical distribution of ringing effort in the 2001–2002 ringing year.

Province/ country	Number of ringers	Number of species ringed	Number of birds ringed	Average no. of birds per ringer
Gauteng	34	326	18 951	557
Western Cape	28	187	12 740	455
Namibia	15	225	9628	642
KwaZulu-Natal	13	234	4962	382
North West	6	158	4412	735
Limpopo	6	209	4207	701
Eastern Cape	13	164	5347	411
Mpumalanga	8	206	2914	364
Zimbabwe	7	199	1658	237
Botswana	5	110	1522	304
Free State	6	111	1564	261
Zambia	1	53	927	927
Northern Cape	3	23	201	67
Swaziland	1	51	146	146
Mauritius	1	5	196	196
Malawi	1	7	8	8
Totals	148	569	69 383	469

Table 2. Top 20 ringers in the 2001–2002 ringing year for all species.

Ringer	Province/country	No. of birds
Tim Osborne	Namibia	4007
Kobie Raijmakers	Gauteng	2308
Gerrie Grobler	Limpopo	2299
Margaret McCall	Western Cape	2200
Hennie de Klerk	Gauteng	2108
Bob Ellis	Western Cape	2057
Rihann Geysler	Gauteng	1928
Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	1628
Mark Boorman	Namibia	1534
Rita Marais	North West	1534
Tony Tree	Eastern Cape	1467
Herman & Zephné Bernitz	Mpumalanga	1315
Johann Snyman	Gauteng	1287
Colin de Kock	Gauteng	1262
Henk Bouwman	North West	1240
Mark Brown	KwaZulu-Natal	1165
Dawie de Swardt	Free State	1162
Norbert Klages	Eastern Cape	1142
Shonie Raijmakers	Gauteng	1117
Barry Taylor	KwaZulu-Natal	1078

Table 3. Top ringers in the 2001–2002 ringing year for raptors.

a) Nestlings		
Ringer	Province/country	No. of birds
Kevin Mitchell	Zimbabwe	103
Carl Jones	Mauritius	58
Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	56
Tim Osborne	Namibia	52
Anthony van Zyl	Western Cape	29
b) Free-flying raptors		
Ringer	Province/country	No. of birds
Francois Taljaard	Northern Cape	156
Herman & Zephné Bernitz	Mpumalanga	134
John Moorcroft	Eastern Cape	95
Manfred Schmitt	Gauteng	89
Dirk Heinrich	Namibia	87

Table 4. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2001–2002 ringing year: terrestrial species.

Rank	Species	Total ringed	Previous rank
1	Red Bishop <i>Euplectes orix</i>	5837	2
2	Masked Weaver <i>Ploceus velatus</i>	5597	1
3	Redbilled Quelea <i>Quelea quelea</i>	4204	3
4	European Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	3716	5
5	Cape White-eye <i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	3411	4
6	Cape Weaver <i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1444	7
7	Blue Waxbill <i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	1156	10
8	Redheaded Finch <i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	1149	6
9	Blackeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	1021	13
10	Laughing Dove <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	1005	9
11	African Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	840	12
12	Cape Sparrow <i>Passer melanurus</i>	822	11
13	Melba Finch <i>Pytilia melba</i>	758	
14	Cape Robin <i>Cossypha caffra</i>	675	14
15	Olive Thrush <i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	666	18
16	Common Waxbill <i>Estrilda astrild</i>	640	16
17	South African Cliff Swallow <i>Hirundo spilodera</i>	604	19
18	Spottedbacked Weaver <i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	588	
19	Redeyed Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	583	20
20	Cape Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	579	

Table 5. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2001–2002 ringing year: seabirds.

Rank	Species	Total ringed
1	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1612
2	Cape Gannet <i>Morus capensis</i>	1610
3	African Penguin <i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	1330
4	Swift Tern <i>Sterna bergii</i>	1033
5	Kelp Gull <i>Larus dominicanus</i>	632
6	Indian Yellownosed Albatross <i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	490
7	Hartlaub's Gull <i>Larus hartlaubii</i>	440
8	Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	398
9	Antarctic Tern <i>Sterna vittata</i>	293
10	Cape Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	210

Table 6. The most frequently ringed birds for the 2001–2002 ringing year: raptors.

(a) Raptor nestlings			(b) Free-flying raptors		
Rank	Species	Total ringed	Rank	Species	Total ringed
1	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	86	1	Pale Chanting Goshawk <i>Melierax canorus</i>	231
2	Mauritius Kestrel <i>Falco punctatus</i>	58	2	Steppe Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	158
3	Whitebacked Vulture <i>Gyps africanus</i>	38	3	Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	114
4	Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	30	4	Blackshouldered Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	81
5	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	25	5	Jackal Buzzard <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	64
6	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	19	6	Greater Kestrel <i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	61
7	Lappetfaced Vulture <i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	16	7	Rock Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	44
8	Whitefaced Owl <i>Otus leucotis</i>	15	8	Pearlspotted Owl <i>Glauclidium perlatum</i>	40
9	Lizard Buzzard <i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	14	9	Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	35
10	Lanner Falcon <i>Falco biarmicus</i>	10	10	Spotted Eagle Owl <i>Bubo africanus</i>	33

Table 7. Comparison of annual totals over 5 years.

Ringing year	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
Active ringers	127	134	155	149	148
New ringers	?	27	34	24	25
Birds ringed	79 977	80 958	65 981	82 792	69 383
Species ringed	504	536	553	554	569